



[4910-EX-P]

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2020-0087]

#### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of applications for exemption; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces receipt of applications from five individuals for an exemption from the prohibition in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) against operation of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) by persons with a current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope (transient loss of consciousness), dyspnea (shortness of breath), collapse, or congestive heart failure. If granted, the exemptions would enable these individuals with implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before [Insert date 30 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket ID FMCSA-2020-0087 using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0087>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- Hand Delivery: West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
- Fax: (202) 493-2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the “Public Participation” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for instructions on submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Operations, (202) 366-9826.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Public Participation**

#### **A. Submitting Comments**

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (Docket No. FMCSA-2020-0087), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use

only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0087>. Click on the “Comment Now!” button and type your comment into the text box on the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

## **B. Viewing Documents and Comments**

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0087> and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366-9317 or (202) 366-9826 before visiting Docket Operations.

## **C. Privacy Act**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

## **II. Background**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for no longer than a 5-year period if it finds such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption. The statute also allows the Agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 5-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a 2-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver's medical certification.

The five individuals listed in this notice have requested an exemption from 49 CFR 391.41(b)(4). Accordingly, the Agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting the exemption will achieve the required level of safety mandated by statute.

The physical qualification standard found in § 391.41(b)(4) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.

In addition to the regulations, FMCSA has published advisory criteria<sup>1</sup> to assist medical examiners in determining whether drivers with certain medical conditions are qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. The advisory criteria states that ICDs are disqualifying due to risk of syncope.

### **III. Qualifications of Applicants**

#### *Cory Brister*

Mr. Brister is a CMV driver in Mississippi. A December 28, 2016, medical report from Mr. Brister's cardiologist indicates that his ICD was implanted in December of 2016. An October 9, 2019, letter from his cardiologist reports that Mr. Brister is asymptomatic, that his ejection fraction has improved with medical therapy, and that his ICD has never deployed. A February 19, 2020, letter from his cardiologist indicates that a February of 2020, echocardiogram was normal, and his left ventricular ejection fraction is 55 percent.

#### *Christopher K. Chrestman*

Mr. Chrestman is CMV driver in Mississippi. A letter February 2020, letter from his cardiologist states that Mr. Chrestman's ICD was implanted in January of 2020, he is currently asymptomatic, he has not had any shocks from the device, and that he will need to continue regular follow up care with his physicians.

#### *Theodore J. Engelke*

Mr. Engelke is a CMV driver in Minnesota. May 14, 2019, progress notes from Mr. Engelke's cardiologist state that his ICD was implanted in September of 2017, he has had no ICD discharges, and no symptoms of heart failure or angina pectoris.

#### *Charles Michaux*

---

<sup>1</sup> These criteria may be found in 49 CFR part 391, APPENDIX A TO PART 391—MEDICAL ADVISORY CRITERIA, section D. *Cardiovascular: § 391.41(b)(4)*, paragraph 4, which is available on the internet at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title49-vol5/pdf/CFR-2015-title49-vol5-part391-appA.pdf>.

Mr. Michaux is a CMV driver in California. A February 11, 2019, letter from his cardiologist states that Mr. Michaux's ICD was implanted in March of 2019, he denied any symptoms at his last January 9, 2020, clinic visit, and is stable. Mr. Michaux reports in his application that his ICD device has never deployed.

*John Warner*

Mr. Warner is a CMV driver in Colorado. A December 19, 2019, letter from Mr. Warner's cardiologist reports that his ICD was implanted in August of 2010, and that there have been no shocks and no symptoms of concern, and that he has a recent ejection fraction of 65-70 per cent.

### **Request for Comments**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on the exemption petitions described in this notice. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated under the DATES section of the notice.

---

Larry W. Minor,  
*Associate Administrator for Policy.*